Licence Fee from the Radio and Television set Holders

†3958. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI RAMA SHANKAR KAUSHIK:
SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal of the Prasar Bharati is under consideration of Government with regatrd to charging huge amount as licence fee from the radio and television set holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a proposal;

(c) whether Government are considering to turn down the said proposal of Prasar Bharati;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that a proposal for imposing licence fee on radio/TV sets is under their consideration.

(c) Government do not propose to charge any licence fee on radio/TV sets.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

FDI in Print Media

†3959. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to allow more foreign capital investment in news agencies;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said proposal and whether news agencies have also requested Government to bring this proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) It is felt necessary to consult with media persons/industry connected with the news agencies in order to ascertain if the 1956 policy on news agencies needs a detailed review given the rapid technological/other changes noticed in the meantime.

Telecasting of objectionable advertisements on TV

3960. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the notices served on the channels to desist from telecasting objectionable advertisements, channels have been telecasting the same;

(b) if so, the action taken on these channels;

(c) the details of the notices served on each channel;

(d) whether Government have formulated any policy to curb such advertisements appearing on TV;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The advertisements of all satellite channels when transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Networks are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Complaints/suggestions from members of the public and organizations are received from time to time regarding alleged violations of Advertising Code. The Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act to look into violations of the Advertising Code. Cognizance of such violations of Advertising Code is also taken *suo moto* by the officials and Members of the Committee.

Show Cause Notices are issued in first instance to TV channels telecasting objectionable advertisements in violation of provisions of the Advertising Code and in suitable cases TV Channels are directed not to